

Finnish Society and Language (Finnish Language)

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Finnish language in 45 minutes

- Finnish and other languages
- Languages of Finland
- Some characteristics of Finnish language
- Practical information: politeness and addressing in Finnish/Finland



Languages of Finland

- The official languages (“national languages”) of Finland are Finnish and Swedish.
- The Saami languages are the languages of the indigenous population of Finland. There are three different Saami languages spoken in Finland: Inari Saami, Skolt Saami and Northern Saami.
- Finnish Romani, Finnish sign language, Finland-Swedish sign language and Karelian have special status.
- Biggest numbers of foreign-language speakers (2019): Russian, Estonian, Arabic, English, Somali (stat.fi)



For more information:

Institute for Languages of Finland

(https://www.kotus.fi/en/on_language/languages_of_finland)



Uralic language family

- In addition to the Uralic languages, there are two other language families in Europe: Indo-European and Basque.
- Hungarians, Finns, and Estonians make up the majority of Uralic language speakers.



Some characteristics of Finnish language

- No grammatical gender:
hän 'she, he'
- No articles
- Long and short vowels and consonants:
tuuli 'wind', *tuli* 'fire'
tapaa 's/he meets', *tappaa* 's/he kills'
- Diphthongs: *Suomi*, *soutaa* 'to row'
- Case endings: *pöydällä*, *pöydältä*, *pöydälle*, *pöydässä*...
- Synthetic language, various suffixes: *Vastaisitko?* 'Would you answer?'



Finnish words

- Original or international?

KÄSI

HOTELLI

KÄSIPYYHERULLAJÄRJESTELMÄ

Politeness and addressing in Finnish



Politeness and addressing in Finnish

- Addressing and use of titles
the 2nd person singular pronoun *sinä* is commonly used; the 2nd person plural pronoun *te* is more formal
- Greetings
Moi, hei or *hyvää huomenta?*
- *Please-word?*
- Listening, talking and interrupting?
- Silent/shy/friendly/helpful Finns?



Kiitos! Hyvää kevätlukukautta!

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